

Appl. No. 09/975,890
Amdt. Dated October 6, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 9, 2005

APP 1299

Remarks/Arguments

The specification is being amended to identify the related applications directed to common subject matter with this application.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 15, and 18 have been amended more precisely to recite applicants' invention and claims 2, 10-14, 16, 17, and 19-22 have been canceled, the subject matter of claim 2 having been included in its parent claim 1 and claim 3 having been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of from now cancelled claim 2.

Claims 1-9 stand provisionally rejected under double patenting in view of claims of the related application Serial No. 09/975,910. In response thereto applicants are submitting herewith a Terminal Disclaimer referencing that related application.

Claims 15 and 18 stand rejected as anticipated, 35 USC 102(b), by Bantz et al patent 5,519,706 (hereinafter "Bantz"). Claims 15 and 18 have been amended further to distinguish applicants' invention from Bantz. The Examiner has pointed out that Bantz, in column 7, describes that each mobile station has a MAC address and that the base station has a list of the MAC addresses of the mobile stations owned by that base station. Applicants' invention, however, involves the provision of an additional address, distinct from the normal MAC address of the base station or of the mobile station. Applicants have designated this additional address as a "shadow address" of the mobile station. As recited in claim 15, as amended, the shadow address of the mobile station is assigned to the mobile station by the base station, has the same format as the base station link layer address but is distinct from both the base station link layer address and the mobile station wireless link layer address, and serves as a unique identifier of the mobile station. The base station stores this shadow address and communicates to the appropriate mobile station when there is a match of the shadow address of the packet that has been sent and the shadow address stored at the base station.

As stated at page 9, lines 5-9 of applicants' specification, applicants' invention assigns this shadow address to a mobile station, the shadow address being compatible with the link layer address of the wireline subnet which delivers packets to the mobile station via the base station and uses the shadow address of the mobile station for the packets communicated to the mobile station. Specifically, the "shadow address" is a unique wireline layer-2 address that is assigned to a mobile station in addition to the unique wireless layer-2 address normally allocated to a mobile station.

This use of a wireline layer address as an additional identifying address, which is distinct from the MAC and other addresses described by Bantz, is not to found in Bantz or suggested in any way by Bantz.

Applicants appreciate that the expression "shadow address" is not a term of art with respect to wireless communication systems. However, applicants, as they are entitled to, have defined and explained the meaning of that expression in their

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specification, particularly in Section 1.1 from page 13, line 19 to page 15, line 23. See, for example, at page 15, lines 8-10, "With the shadow address approach, beside the unique wireless layer-2 address normally allocated to each mobile station, a unique wireline layer-2 address is also assigned to the mobile station." Further, at page 15, lines 19-23, "In essence, the wireline layer-2 address assigned to a mobile station can be viewed as a 'shadow' that the mobile station casts on the wireline layer 2. For this reason, the wireline layer-2 address assigned to a mobile station will be referred to as the shadow wireline layer-2 address of the mobile station, or "shadow address" for short."

Applicants' invention overcomes the problems and limitations of the prior art, as set forth in the Description of the Background Art, at pages 2-8 of their specification.

Claim 15, as amended, recites that the base station and the mobile station have their normal and prior art link layer addresses but that the mobile station in addition has a shadow address which has the same format as the base station link layer address but is distinct therefrom, with the shadow address determining whether a packet is to be communicated from the base station to the mobile station. Claim 18, as amended, recites that the shadow address is a unique layer-2 address for the mobile station assigned by the base station.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 18, as amended, are clearly distinguished from and patentable over Bantz, and their reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-9, while not rejected on Bantz, have also been amended to recite more precisely these distinctions from the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9, as amended, and in view of the Terminal Disclaimer are also respectfully requested.

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It is believed that this application is in condition to be passed to issue, and such action is also respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner believes it would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone applicants' attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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